



Perkins Township

Board of Trustees

Timothy Coleman
Jeffrey Ferrell
James Lang

April 29, 2019

Chairman Wiggin, Vice Chairman Ginter & Ranking Member Kelly,
-and-
Members of the House State and Local Government Committee

Re: House Bill No. 74, Junk Watercraft

This letter is being sent to provide Perkins Township's comments on the above-referenced bill scheduled for consideration by your Committee. Perkins Township is a large urban township located in Erie County, and our Township is a major gateway to Lake Erie and the islands. As a result of our geographic location, our Township residents enjoy the benefit of close proximity to both Sandusky Bay and Lake Erie.

Please be advised that Perkins Township has reviewed House Bill No. 74, and it is noted that the proposed legislation as contained in this Bill would amend the Ohio Revised Code to provide a definition for a "junk" watercraft vessel and/ or "outboard motor," and this legislation would grant authority to local jurisdictions to address nuisance issue related to the same. This legislation would provide this and other townships with the ability to require the abatement of a nuisance created by a "junk" watercraft vessel or "outboard motor" provided that all of the following requirements are met:

1. It is three (3) years old or older;
2. It is apparently inoperable; and
3. It has a fair market value of \$1,500.00 or less

Given Perkins Township's proximity to Lake Erie, Sandusky Bay and other navigable watercourses in the area, many watercraft are located or stored within the Township and, in most instances, are stored in such a manner as to not create a nuisance situation for neighbors. Unfortunately, not all property and boat owners store watercraft vessels appropriately, and as such vessels become either inoperable to unseaworthy, they tend to be abandoned thereby creating a nuisance situation in a manner not dissimilar to junk or inoperable motor vehicles like cars, trucks and motorcycles. Junk watercraft have the potential of creating environmental problems associated with leaking fuel, oil or other liquids, being an attractive nuisance for children that can lead to children climbing and/or falling from such unstable vessels, providing a location for rodent harborage, etc. In addition, an abandoned watercraft vessel or outboard motor creates visual blight in the community which blight is not just an eyesore but can also lead to declining property values and other forms of property maintenance.

From Perkins Township's perspective, the enactment of this legislation will provide us and other communities with the ability to address nuisance conditions created by "junk" watercraft or abandoned outboard motors. That ability will, in turn, enable local jurisdictions to address such nuisance situations in a timely, and fair manner.

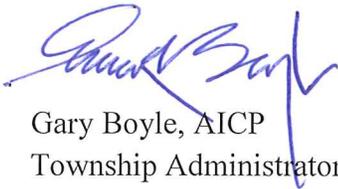
Thank you for your consideration of our comments, and House Bill No. 74. We encourage you to recommend the approval of this bill.

Should you have any questions or require any clarification of our comments, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully submitted,



Timothy D. Coleman, CPM
Chair, Perkins Township Board of Trustees



Gary Boyle, AICP
Township Administrator

cc: State Representative Steve Arndt, House District 89
State Senator Theresa Gavarone, Senate District 2
E. Turk, Legislative Aid, Rep. Arndt, House District 89
D. Frederick, Trustee, Milan Township
Erie County Township Association